



IELTS CRASH COURSE ONLINE

# 40 MISTAKES TO AVOID IN IELTS



## LISTENING SECTION



IELTS Listening comprises of 40 questions. You'll get 40 minutes to attempt the sections. In that 40 minutes you'll have 30 minutes for the actual test 10 mins to transfer your answers to the answer script, you can also directly write on answer script itself in the first attempt.

The Listening part has 4 sections, each section has 10 questions.

The type of audio given to you will be alternatively between conversations and solo presentations.

For example, Section1 will be a conversation between two people on an everyday life topic.

Section2 will be a solo presentation on a non-academic general life topic, you can face a map question here.

Section3 will again be a conversation, probably between three people, and this section will be difficult than the previous sections. The vocabulary levels will be higher and the answer choices will be longer.

Section4 will again be a solo academic lecture, most difficult section. Here the vocabulary levels are higher, the spelling of the answers will be difficult.

The question type will be multiple choice or fill in the blank questions.



## LISTENING- MISTAKES TO AVOID



1. **Read the instructions properly.** For example, avoid paraphrasing. Avoid going beyond word limits. Write exactly what was said, which is what the directions say.
2. **Avoid grammatical errors.** If you write in singular form instead of plural, you'll lose marks even if your answer is correct.
3. **Avoid grasping the whole audio,** instead identify the theme and point out the keywords of the speech.
4. **Avoid getting stuck and trying to figure out an answer,** you'd get behind the audio, so keep on listening.
5. **While writing the answer on the answer-script don't abbreviate, don't paraphrase, don't use synonyms,** write exactly what was said.
6. **Avoid leaving a blank question,** there's no negative marks, so guess an answer.
7. **Avoid spelling mistakes.** You'll lose marks even if your answer is correct.
8. **Avoid taking much time to write long spellings while listening.** You'd get 10 minutes later on to transfer your answer to the answer-script.
9. **When you believe an answer is stated write it down right away,** else you'll go behind the audi-
10. **Avoid losing focus.**



## READING SECTION



IELTS Reading section has 40 questions and you get 60 minutes to answer the section.

The reading section has 3 parts, each part comprises of one passage and related questions. And it gets progressively more difficult. i.e. The last passage is the most difficult passage in the section.

Reading section has mainly 14 question types - short answer, fill in the blanks, yes or no, true or false, given and not given, headings and flow charts, locations, matchings, diagrams, table, completion, multiple choices.

Unlike the listening section you don't get extra time for writing down your answers so you need to immediately write down the answers on the answer script, after you're done with the text.

The reading sections will basically check two skills from your side -

1. **Scanning skills** (you need to be able to identify the keywords in a time bound manner)
2. **Comprehension skills** (for this you also need to have a decent vocabulary)



## READING- MISTAKES TO AVOID



1. Avoid reading every word of the whole passage, instead scan through the passage and identify keywords
2. Avoid reading auxiliary verbs and prepositions like is, on, as, of, the etc. instead focus on the keywords, this will help you save time and also point out the keywords.
3. Avoid reading the passage first, read the questions once and then come back to the passage.
4. Try not to spend much time on passages 1 and 2. Passage 3 is the most difficult and you need to have sufficient time for it.
5. Not having a decent vocabulary will be disadvantageous for you, specially in this section. So try having a good vocabulary, it'll help you comprehend the passage in a better way.
6. Always read the instructions properly before answering.
7. Avoid writing the answer at the last moment, instead answer directly on the answer script, as you do not get extra time to transfer your answers to the answerscript.
8. Avoid grammatical errors and spelling mistakes.
9. Avoid going through the passage multiple times while answering. The questions in the reading sections follow an ordered format. So start again from the next paragraph where you found the answer to the previous question.
10. Avoid assuming the answers, specially for the T/F, Y/N questions.



## WRITING SECTION



After you are done with listening and reading, you'd face the writing section.

Writing section will have **two tasks**.

For Task 1 you'll get 20 minutes to write a report. The task 1 is **factual in nature and do not ask for your opinion**. If you are sitting for IELTS Academic exam, there's going to be a chart, or a report or a map or a process and you have to write a report on it. And if you are giving IELTS General exam, you have to write a letter (formal or informal) You should also know that the weightage of scoring allocated on the **Task 1 is 33.33%. Meaning Task 2 has 66.66% weightage and is more important**. For example if you get  $x$  in task 1 and  $y$  in task 2. then your score will be  $(x+2y)$ .

For the **Writing Task 2**, you have to write a standard essay. **It requires your opinion, your logical thinking.**

The question types for Task 2 would be - Agree or disagree (to what extent), evaluate both sides, give your opinion, advantages and disadvantages, give a solution etc.

The writing section is usually **graded on the basis of task achievement, coherence of the passage, grammatical correctness, usage of words and vocabulary range.**





## WRITING- MISTAKES TO AVOID



1. **Avoid writing the whole passage on a single paragraph.** Try to use a minimum of four paragraphs instead.
2. **Avoid writing a long essay.** 175-225 word count should be ideal.
3. **Avoid using similar words and sentence types throughout the essay.** Have a lot of vocabulary variety and try to use both simple and compound sentences in your essay.
4. **Avoid memorizing something from an essay book or a coach and copying it on the answer script.** Write the essay in your own language and writing style. You are bound to make mistakes if you follow someone else's style, specially by memorizing.
5. **Avoid writing sentences full of mistakes.** Write mistake free sentences (both grammar and spelling wise) to improve your score.
6. **Avoid using slangs and street language.**
7. **Avoid using multiple tenses in a single essay.** Even if you do, keep track of it and avoid mistakes.
8. **Avoid starting writing immediately.** First, analyze the question and then develop an outline for the essay and then start writing.
9. **Avoid wasting too much time in analyzing and planning.** Good time management skills is necessary, you shouldn't give more than 7 minutes to do those.
10. **Avoid writing till the 40 minutes mark.** Have extra 5 minutes to go through the sentences and correct mistakes.



## SPEAKING SECTION



This is the last section that you'd face on the day of your IELTS exam.

The speaking section has **Three parts**:

1. Introduction and interview
2. You giving an uninterrupted speech on a topic
3. Discussion/ conversation

For task 1, you sit down with the examiner, and he will ask you **some questions** about you, your family and then on any subject. This usually will last for four minutes.

For task 2, you'd get a topic card, that will include the topic and **will also give you three to four props or hints**. You'd get one minute to note the outline of your speech and then two minutes to respond. The examiner will ask no questions here and you'll speak uninterrupted.

In task 3, you'll have a discussion with examiner, and the topic of the discussion/ conversation will be based on what you received in task 2.

The whole speaking section will last for 12-14 minutes. And in this section the examiners are given a fixed time to talk.

**You'll be assessed based on your speaking ability. Here 'how' you say matters more and not 'what' you say.** Your speaking fluency, grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary will matter here and not your ideas and opinion. But that doesn't mean you can go off-topic, that will hurt your score.





## SPEAKING- MISTAKES TO AVOID



1. **Avoid grammatical mistakes.**
2. **Don't lose confidence.** Don't be too much conscious about your accent.
3. **Avoid thinking too much about 'what' you say.** 'How' you say matters not what you say. But stay on topic, going off-topic will hurt your score.
4. **You can ask the examiner to repeat a question. But avoid doing that 4 to 5 times.**
5. **Avoid giving memorized ideas.** Speak spontaneously.
6. **Avoid sounding mechanical while speaking.** Avoid flat intonation. Add a bit of emotion and voice modulation in your voice.
7. **Avoid speaking too fast.** Avoid speaking painfully **slow.**
8. **Avoid giving yes/no, one word answers.** Explain your answer a bit.
9. **Avoid going off topic and rambling on to different directions.** Stay on topic, stay on the context of the question.
10. **Avoid sitting silent.** You can think for 15 seconds but you need to start speaking.



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